

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14 EUR-25 AF-10 SSC-01

DRC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 /149 W  
----- 013244

O R 251520Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 471

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

US MISSION USUN 2695

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 9-25-75

TAGS: PGOV PINT LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE CABINET RESIGNS

REF: BEIRUT 11518

1. FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SEPT. 25, PRIMIN TAKIEDDINE SOLH AT 1650 HOURS LOCAL TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION AND THAT OF HIS CABINET TO PRES. FRANGIE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF RESIGNATIONS, BUT REQUESTED SOLH AND HIS SURVIVING MINISTERS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE AND ACT AS CARETAKER GOVT. UNTIL NEW ONE CAN BE FORMED. WE ARE TOLD THAT WHEN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ANNOUNCING FORMATION OF NEW GOVT. IS ISSUED, RESIGNATION OF SOLH CABINET WILL AUTOMATICALLY TAKE EFFECT.

2. FEVERISH ACTIVITY AMONG LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS (REFTTEL AND PREVIOUS) IN CONNECTION WITH SELECTION OF SUCCESSOR CABINET  
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CONTINUES, WITH FORMER PREMIER ABDULLAH YAFI AND RASHID KARAME

BEING TOUTED BY MOST OBSERVERS AS HAVING THEEDGE ON OTHER SUNNI MOSLEM CANDIDATES AT THIS JUNCTURE. (COMMENT: WE REGARD SUCH SPECULATION AS PREMATURE, SINCE WE CONTINUE BELIEVE PROCESS OF CHOOSING NEW PRIMIN AND FORMING HIS CABINET WILL REQUIRE MANY DAYS, IF NOT WEEKS, OF "GIVE-AND-TAKE" MANEUVERINGS BETWEEN FRANGIE AND BROAD SPECTRUM OF LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES.)

3. KARAME, HIS ERSTWHILE SUNNI RIVAL (AND ALSO FORMER PREMIER) SAEB SALAM, AS WELL AS YAFI AND "NATIONAL BLOC" CHIEFTAIN RAYMOND EDDE, MET JOINTLY HERE SEPT. 24 AND REPORTEDLY AGREED ON "ACTION PROGRAM" CALLING FOR FORMATION OF NEW CABINET UNDER "STRONG" PRIMIN CAPABLE OF INSTITUTING LONG OVERDUE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, ADOPTING CLEAR-CUT NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY, AND "RE-ESTABLISHING CONFESSIONAL BALANCE" IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS. AT SAME TIME, KAMAL JUMBLATT APPEARS TO HAVE SERVED FORMAL NOTICE ON PRES. FRANGIE THAT HIS BLOC'S SUPPORT FOR, AND PARTICIPATION IN, AN NEW GOVT. WILL ALSO DEPEND ON CERTAIN "CONDITIONS", INCLUDING PROMISE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL REFORMS DESIGNED TO REDUCE INFLUENCE OF "CONFESSIONALISM" IN LEBANESE BODY POLITIC. (IN VIEW FACT THAT SEPT. 22 TARSHISH INCIDENT--SEE PARA 3 REFTTEL--HAS FURTHER ENVENOMED JUMBLATT'S POOR RELATIONS WITH RIGHT-WING CHRISTIAN LEADERS PIERRE GEMAYEL AND CAMILLE CHAMOUN, HE WILL PROBABLY ALSO SEEK TO EXERCISE VETO OVER FALANGIST AND CHAMOUNISH REPRESENTATION IN ANY NEW CABINET.)

4. PRES. FRANGIE'S REACTION TO ABOVE DEMANDS REMAINS A MYSTERY, SINCE HE IS RUNNING TRUE TO FORM IN KEEPING HIS THOUGHTS A SECRET EVEN FROM HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS. ONLY INDICATION OF PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE TO DATE IS WIDELY-CIRCULATED RUMOR THAT HE IS INTENT UPON HAVING HIS SON, PTT MINISTER TONY FRANGIE, RETAINED IN NEXT CABINET.

5. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED FOREGOING YESTERDAY WITH SAEB SALAM WHO STATED CRISIS MIGHT BE PROTRACTED. WHILE STATING HE "ALWAYS PREPARED SERVE COUNTRY" HE DISCOUNTED THIS POSSIBILITY NOW FOR HE COULD "WORK WITH PRESIDENT" ONLY IF TONY FRANGIE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL GHANEM WERE TOTALLY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE, OBVIOUSLY A MOST UNLIKELY EVENT.  
GODLEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BEIRUT 11518  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE CABINET RESIGNS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, LE, (SOLH, TAKIEDDINE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005